

What he might say in his own behalf would dwindle in proportion to the stake for which he is pleading and in this case the stake is life itself; what might slip from him under the pressure of a mistake, honest or otherwise, as the case may be, would be magnified in the opposite degree. A sudden trip and fall might cost him dear; a calm and unshaken denial, which is the best he could do, might with the evidence against him, avail him nothing. Besides this much that could not be smuggled into court if he keeps clear of the chair, may be run in with impunity as soon as he begins to testify. His appearance would at once open up a new and closed and would make possible the introduction of the Inquest testimony and other things now excluded. These are some of the considerations that